



2026 USEF EVENTING YOUNG RIDER CHAMPIONSHIPS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

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2026 CHAMPIONSHIP LOCATION:

The Maryland International and Horse Trials:

- June 26-28, 2026, in Adamstown, Maryland.
- Facilities, Grounds, and Hotel Information can be found on [The Maryland Horse Trials Website](#).
 - [USEA Omnibus Listing](#)
 - [Approved FEI Schedule](#)

2026 CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT AND SCHEDULE:

The 2026 Championships will be held at the short format.

Schedule is subject to change.

- Arrivals and Opening Ceremonies
- Day 1: Dressage Test
- Day 2: Cross-Country Test
- Day 3: Horse Inspection / Jumping Test / Prize Giving

Q. Is this the same as the FEI North American Youth Championships (NAYC) held for Dressage and Jumping?

A. No, unfortunately we do not have enough countries participating in this event for it to be designated as an FEI Championships. This is a USEF owned Championship, but we have aspirations to return to an FEI approved Championships.

Q. Will a long format Championship be held this year?

A. No, there will only be one short format Championship per level this year.

2026 APPLICATION & AREA DECLARATIONS:

All U.S. Athletes interested in competing at the Championships must complete their Application/Area Declaration by **May 15, 2026**. The Application/Area Declaration is found in an Athlete's USEF account under the [Athlete Dashboard](#).

Q. Is there an application fee?

A. No, the Area Declaration is free to complete.

Q. Should an Athlete declare for the Area where they currently live?

A. There is no requirement for an Athlete to declare for the Area where they currently live (for example, you have a “home” Area, but you are attending college or are a working student while in another Area). Either option is permitted but you must be a member of the Area’s Young Rider Program in order to be considered for their Team.

Q. I am not a US citizen, but I ride, live or compete in the USA. Can I complete an Area Declaration and ride in the Championships?

A. No, you are not eligible to be on a U.S. Team. However, you may still compete in the Championships under a different nationality. Please contact Amber Braun, Managing Director, Eventing (abraun@usef.org) for more information.

Q. Who should I contact for more information on an Area’s Young Rider Program?

A. Contact the Area’s Young Rider Coordinator. Their contact information should be publicly available on the Area website. The directory can be found [HERE](#).

Q. Are the Areas required to provide a coach, or can an individual Athlete use their personal coach? Is a Chef d’Equipe required?

A. Each Area must provide either a Coach or Chef d’Equipe for the Championships. Athletes are allowed to bring personal coaches, but please make sure this is an approved plan by the Area YR Coordinator.

Q. There aren’t enough people in my Area to form a Team, am I still able to go to the Championships?

A. Yes, you may attend the Championships as an Individual. Areas may send up to two (2) individual per Championship division.

Q. Are we able to combine with another Area to make a Scramble Team?

A. Yes, USEF may combine Areas to form a Scramble Team. Please refer to the Selection Procedures for the process.

Q. Can a single Athlete participate on multiple Teams at the Championships?

A. Yes, if the Athlete represents the same Area and is qualified for both divisions. For example, the Athlete can compete on the Area’s 2 Team with Horse 1 and the Area’s 3* Team on Horse 2.*

2026 ATHLETE AGE REQUIREMENTS:

FEI age is defined as the age the Athlete will turn during the calendar year of the competition. The 2026 division and age ranges are:

- Athletes wishing to compete in the USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships CCIU253*-S must have been born on or between January 1, 2001, and December 31, 2010 (FEI ages 16-25).
- Athletes wishing to compete in the USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships CCIYJ2*-S must have been born on or between January 1, 2005, and December 31, 2012 (FEI ages 14-21).
- Athletes wishing to compete in the USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships CCI1J*-Intro must have been born on or between January 1, 2008, and December 31, 2012 (FEI ages 14-18).

Q. What do you mean by “FEI age”?

A. FEI age is defined as the age the athlete will turn during the calendar year of the competition. Unlike USEF age, the month and day of birth do not matter. For example, an athlete born on October 15, 2003, will turn 14 during 2017, so their FEI age is 14 for the entire 2017 calendar year of January 1 through December 31, 2017.

MISC QUESTIONS:

Q. What is a Chef d'Equipe?

A. The Chef d'Equipe (or Chef) is the person who is the responsible point of contact between the Organizers and the Athletes. The Chef will attend informational meetings at the Championships and is responsible for their Athletes' performance and behavior while at the event.